



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

S E L E C T M E N ,

THE

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR,

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF HUDSON,

FOR THE YEAR

1860-61.

NASHUA:

PRINTED BY ALBIN BEARD.

1861.

REPORTS.

REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

STATEMENT OF THE SELECTMEN FOR 1859-60.

State of the Treasury, Feb. 23, 1860 :		
Outstanding taxes in J. M. Thompson's list, 1857,	1	97
“ “ “ “ 1858,	71	42
“ “ James Emery's list, 1859,	781	66
Cash in treasury,	476	52
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$1331 57

ALVAN SMITH,	} Selectmen of
NOAH O. ROBINSON,	

RECEIPTS.

Feb. 23, 1860, whole amount in hand as	
per above,	\$1331 57
Tax for Town, School and Teachers' Institute,	1929 88
State Tax,	268 80
County Tax,	508 32
Received of the State the railroad tax,	99 96
“ for one pair oxen on Town Farm,	135 00
“ for use of Town House,	5 00
“ of the committee on Farms road,	10 90
“ of S. D. Greeley, committee on	
town house,	1 24
“ of County for relief of John Deland,	3 02
“ of Town of Sutton for relief of	
Stephen Richardson,	25 00
	<hr/>
	\$4318 69

DISBURSEMENTS.

Bills paid for 1859-60 :

George W. Hills, goods for alms house,	64 76
Jonathan C. Dudley, blacksmithing,	18 62
Merrill & Stetson, dry goods,	41 92
Pierce & McQuesten, shingles and lumber,	43 30
Richard R. Strong, pork and grain,	25 00
Noah O. Robinson, services as School Committee,	30 00
Alvan Smith, services as Selectman,	43 00
Reuben Greeley, services as committee to op- pose laying out a highway,	5 25
Noah O. Robinson, services as Selectman,	30 87
John C. Webster, services as Town Clerk and Treasurer,	15 00
Norris Smith, taking care of town house,	4 00
Warren Hills, rye for alms house,	8 00
George W. Hills, snowing T. F. Bridge,	8 00
James Lonergan, repairing shoes for alms house,	70
" " breaking roads,	3 70
George W. Hills, services as committee on town house,	10 13
Ellen Strong, services at alms house,	47 00
Robert A. Andrews, breaking rods,	13 84
Henry Butler, do.	2 00
Thomas Senter, do.	3 00
J. K. Wheeler, services as committee on town house,	10 13
D. O. Smith, medical services at alms house,	20 00
J. E. Greeley, pasturing one cow,	3 00
Henry Smith, boarding Mrs. Wyman,	5 66
Morrison & Stanley, for opposing laying out Farms road,	34 50
Frederick Mansfield, boarding and funeral charg- es of Samuel Bailey,	42 38
S. C. Marshall, boarding Susan Robinson,	39 00
Norris Smith, cash paid for fixing lamps for town house,	2 00
B. B. & F. P. Whittemore, printing reports,	15 00
B. K. Jones, land damage near T. F. Bridge,	1 00
B. F. Emerson, services in opposing laying out Farm's road,	22 00
S. D. Greeley, services as committee on town house,	5 00
S. D. Greeley, land damage near T. F. Bridge,	1 36
Samuel Chase, for illegal tax assessed in 1859,	6 85
" " " highway tax in 1859,	2 25
James Emery, collecting taxes,	32 00
James Emery, nonresident highway tax,	7 97
" " abatement of taxes in 1859,	19 86
John M. Thompson, do. 1858,	11 28
Richard R. Strong, services at alms house,	125 00

School Money :

Paul Colburn, balance of school money,	15 66	
Tolford D. Melvin, do.	1 60	
Charles Wood, do.	28 03	
	<hr/>	\$866 62

Bills paid for 1860-1 :

Hiram Marsh, relief of Charles Whittemore's family,	5 00	
" " Mrs. Dolly Phillip,	2 00	
" " C. Whittemore's family,	2 00	
James Carnes, iron posts, lumber and fence making,	20 81	
Pierce & McQuesten, for guide-posts,	3 84	
" " for plank for bridge,	4 41	
Dudley & Clough, rail fastenings,	3 95	
H. C. Laws, lowering straps,	2 63	
Benjamin Pollard, boarding Mrs. Mary Smith,	10 00	
Hiram Marsh, cash to A. Beard, printing bills,	1 50	
Harry Brickett, services as School Commissioner,	15 36	
George W. Hills, goods for alms house,	89 15	
James Carnes, lumber, nails and fence work,	5 50	
Enoch Cummings, for shingling T. F. Bridge,	29 00	
Pierce & McQuesten, shingles and lumber,	90 78	
Samuel Walker, repairing bridge,	4 50	
Richard R. Strong, services at alms house,	25 00	
J. G. Blunt, goods delivered to Geo. G. Whittemore,	10 00	
N. P. Greene, invoice, surveyor's and collector's books,	3 25	
Charles F. Stetson, goods for alms house,	26 80	
Benjamin Pollard, boarding Mrs. Mary Smith,	10 00	
J. P. Bancroft, boarding Mrs. Sarah Hadley,	13 85	
Hiram Marsh, relief of Geo. G. Whittemore,	12 00	
Reuben P. Smith, breaking roads,	10 10	
Caleb Richardson, non-resident highway tax,	22 74	
State tax,	268 80	
County tax,	508 32	
	<hr/>	\$1201 29

For Schools :

District No. 1, J. Franklin Wilson,	85 90	
" " 2, B. Franklin Chase,	85 90	
" " 4, Paul Colburn and Silas Steele,	90 00	
" " 5, Eli Hamblet and Norris Smith,	85 66	
" " 6, J. Kimball Wheeler,	75 00	
" " 7, Simeon F. Robinson,	25 00	
" " 8, Tolford D. Melvin,	68 53	
" " 9, Alden M. Jones,	55 00	
" " 10, Charles W. Hill,	68 83	
	<hr/>	\$639 82

Total Receipts,	4318 69
Total Disbursements,	2707 73
Balance in favor of the town,	<u>\$1610 96</u>

The town is owing the following bills :

Charles Stetson, dry goods for alms house,	1 21
George W. Hills, goods for do.	29 65
J. C. Dudley, lighting Taylor's Falls bridge,	22 60
D. O. Smith, medical services,	20 00
Town of Lyndeboro', relief of Eliza Cummings,	23 00
Stephen C. Marshall, boarding Susan Robinson,	39 00
Henry Smith, boarding Mrs. Wyman,	4 00
Heirs of Daniel Davis's note,	1191 00
John Burnham's note,	357 30
Paul Colburn's note,	234 83
John Cross, snowing Taylor's Falls bridge,	7 50
Eli Hamblet, services as Treasurer and recording taxes,	15 00
Caleb Richardson, collecting taxes,	33 83
Hiram Marsh, services and expenses as Selectman and Overseer of the Poor,	51 50
Samuel Gowing, do.	25 00
Silas Hills, do.	18 50
Dr. D. O. Smith, services as Superintending School Committee,	20 00
Addison Heald, do.	5 50
Charles W. Spalding, do.	4 50
Richard Strong, salary for 1859,	26 17
“ “ “ “ 1860,	165 00
“ “ note on oxen,	124 92
Ellen Strong, labor at alms house,	44 00
Hiram Marsh, cash paid for town,	3 35
School money unpaid,	201 79
Luther Pollard, as committee on town house,	5 00
George W. Hills, relief of James Corliss,	7 37
“ “ “ nails for bridge,	6 96
Thomas Senter, Jr. sawing lumber in 1859-60,	7 41
Balance of receipts,	<u>\$2695 89</u> 1610 96
Excess of liabilities over means,	<u>\$1084 93</u>

We have examined the Treasurer's accounts from Feb. 24th, 1860, to Feb. 23d, 1861, and find them well vouched and correctly cast.

The state of the Treasury, Feb. 23d, is as follows :

Outstanding taxes in J. M. Thompson's list of 1858,	9 09
" " " J. Emery's list of 1859,	111 66
" " " C. Richardson's list of 1860,	1324 38
Cash in treasury,	139 01
Outstanding orders,	26 82
	<hr/>
	\$1610 96

HIRAM MARSH,	} Selectmen of Hudson.
SAMUEL GOWING,	
SILAS HILLS,	

REPORT OF THE OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

EXPENDITURES.

George W. Hills, bill of goods,	118 80	
Chas. Stetson, bill of dry goods,	27 38	
Richard R. Strong, bills paid for town,	114 50	
" " salary,	190 00	
Ellen Strong, labor,	44 00	
D. O. Smith, medical services,	20 00	
Whole amount of expenditures,	<hr/>	\$514 68
Receipts at Alms House,	303 73	
Received for oxen sold,	135 00	
" of town of Sutton,	25 00	
" of County,	3 02	
Due from Mrs. Betsey Chase's estate,	3 00	
Due from David Seavey,	4 00	
Due from County,	10 50	
Whole amount of receipts,	<hr/>	484 25

Balance against Alms House,

30 43

Expense of the Poor off the Farm :

Stephen C. Marshall, boarding Mrs. Robinson,	39 00	
Hiram Marsh, relief Chas. O. K. Whittemore,	7 00	
" " " Mrs. Dolly Phillip,	2 00	
" " " George G. Whittemore,	12 00	
" " " Eliza Cummings,	23 00	
Benjamin Pollard, boarding Mrs. Smith,	20 00	
J. G. Blunt, relief of Geo. G. Whittemore,	10 00	
J. P. Bancroft, boarding Mrs. Sarah Hadley,	13 85	
Geo. W. Hills, relief of James Corliss,	7 37	
" " " Thomas Ferguson,	10 50	
Hiram Marsh, relief of John Deland,	3 02	
" " " Stephen Richardson,	13 56	
Whole expense of poor off the Farm,	<hr/>	\$161 30
Balance against the town,		<hr/>
		\$191 73

Invoice of Stock, Provisions, Farming Tools, &c., Feb. 23, 1861.

1 pair oxen, 110.00, 1 pair three years old steers, 40.00,	150 00
7 two-year olds, 84.00, 5 cows, 100.00,	184 00
3 one-year olds, 25.00,	25 00
12 tons English hay, 216.00, 1 ton run hay, 10.00,	226 00
Corn fodder and straw, 6.00, 5 hay forks, 2.00,	8 00
5 manure forks, 1.75, 5 shovels, 2.00, 1 manure hook, 1.00,	4 75
2 grain shovels, 75, 1 horse waggon, 10.00,	10 75
1 winnowing mill, 4.00, 7 rakes, 1.00, 3 ladders, 2.00,	7 00
1 hay cutter, 4.00, 5 yokes and irons, 15.00, 1 harrow, 4.00,	23 00
1 cultivator, 2.00, 7 bags, 1.25, 1 set dry measures, 1.00,	4 25
35 bushels corn, 35.00, 50 bushels oats, 22.00,	57 00
15 bush. rye, 15.00, oats and barley, 15.00,	30 00
1½ bush. peas, 3.00, 3 bags cob meal, 3.00,	6 00
2 bush. meal, 2.00, 10 baskets, 3.00, 5 chains, 3.00,	8 00
1 iron bar, 1.25, 4 shoats, 50.00, 1 grindstone, 3.00,	54 25
1 ox cart, 28.00, 1 ox waggon, 10.00, 1 wheelbarrow, 3.00,	41 00
1 sleigh, 5.00, 1 harness, 4.00, 2 strings bells, 1.00,	10 00
7 hoes, 2.00, 29 fowls. 9.60, 1 drag, 1.50, lumber, 13.00,	26 10
Carpenter's tools, 3.00, 1 brush, 75, 7 axes, 3.50, 1 shave, 50,	7 75
6 grass scythes, 3.00, 1 bush do. 1.00, 1 horse roke, 5.00,	9 00
½ M shingles, 2.00, 3 iron wedges, 75,	2 75
150 bush. potatoes, 60.00,	60 00
125 bush. ruta bagas, 31.00, 4 bush. carrots, 1.50,	32 50
8 bbls. apples, 8.00, cabbages, 2.00, 6 bbls. cider, 12.00,	22 00
6 gal. boiled cider, 1.50, 2 gal. molasses, 70,	2 20
10 gal. pickles, 1.00, 90 lbs. butter, 18.00,	19 00
550 lbs. pork, 60.50, 325 lbs. hams, 32.50,	93 00
225 lbs. beef, 15.75, 1¾ bbl. vinegar, 7.00, 4 doz. eggs, 80,	23 55
2 bbls. soap, 8.00, 50 lbs. fresh beef, 4.00,	12 00
50 lbs. fresh pork, 4.50, 26 lbs. sausage meat, 2.50,	7 00
25 lbs. soap grease, 1.50, 36 lbs. tallow, 3.60,	5 10
100 lbs. lard, 12.00, 15 lbs. dry fish, 30,	12 30
75 lbs. dried apple, 3.75, 18½ bush. beans, 27.75,	31 50
4 gal. apple sauce, 66, 1 wood saw, 50, 6 cider barrels, 6.00,	7 16

\$1222 96

The number of inmates at the alms house at the present time is nine. Kimball Johnson, Joel Barrett, and Jacob Blodgett, have died. Four have been admitted and two discharged during the past year. Much praise is due to our excellent superintendents at the town farm, Mr. Strong and wife, for their good management the past year. Their services have been secured for the coming year for \$200. There has been sixty rods of wall built on the farm the past year, and one hundred and twenty-five loads of muck drawn out for use the coming season.

HIRAM MARSH,
SAMUEL GOWING, } Overseers
SILAS HILLS, } of
the Poor.

R E P O R T

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

The Superintending School Committee respectfully submit the following report.

DISTRICT NO. I.

Summer term—Miss L. Maria Colburn, Teacher. Miss Colburn labored assiduously and with effect, yet under some discouragements. The register indicates an unusual and unjustifiable amount of tardiness and irregular attendance ; defects which impair the excellence of all our schools, and over which teachers can have comparatively but little control. As a consequence, nearly *one third* of the term was worse than lost. Is this *economy* ?

But, notwithstanding, several of the recitations were excellent ; among them a class in Colburn's Arithmetic and another in Geography. Several of the higher branches were pursued with interest by the larger ladies. Reading, writing and spelling, received we think, rather more than the usual amount of attention. The teacher by her gentle and winning manners, evidently gained the affections and confidence of her pupils, and the order of the school was all that could be desired. Number of visits by citizens and others 48.

Winter term—Mr. Daniel Gage, Teacher. For two years past, individuals of this district and vicinity have succeeded in establishing and maintaining successfully a fall term of school under the direction of Miss Mary Richardson, of Pelham. Want of space forbids us giving a minute description of this excellent school.—Suffice it to say, that we have rarely seen displayed, even in our best endowed academies, more accurate mental discipline than was exhibited at the close of the second term. In this connection we should likewise notice a fall term in District No. 4, similarly successful, under the instruction of Mr. Henry Davis of Nashua.—Select schools like the above named, give dignity to our town, and

afford to very many of our young people the advantages of an academic education, of which they would otherwise be deprived. In the future we hope to have "*a few more of the same sort.*"

Mr. Gage is a good scholar and a teacher of some experience.— His system, though somewhat unique, is accurate and possesses many advantages over the mere routinist. A little more energy would have been admissible, as perhaps it would have awakened sympathetically, a corresponding amount of animation in his pupils. This school has a few *good* scholars. Although we wish to see our common schools attain a high rank, we are fearful there is a tendency here to introduce the higher branches to the neglect of those for which they were primarily instituted. The first class in reading is not excelled by any in town. Much the larger portion of the second class now using the Fourth Reader, would in our judgment, improve more rapidly in the Third. The class in grammar did not sustain criticism as we could have wished. The classes in spelling, arithmetic and the higher mathematics were unusually expert. All things considered, this continues to be one of our best schools. Number of visitors, 50.

DISTRICT NO. II.

Both terms of this school were taught by Miss Eliza A. Thomas.

Would not a new school house, with suitable out-buildings, contribute to the moral, physical and intellectual welfare of the youth of this district? Let those interested consider the matter.

This school still retains its good reputation. Miss Thomas ranks high in scholarship, and accomplished much more in her quiet and modest manner than many would have done with more apparent sternness. The examination of the school at the close of the summer term convinced the committee that she had been diligent in the performance of her whole duty to the pupils in her charge by the manifest improvement of the scholars in the several branches taught. The winter term commenced equally favorably and so continued until interrupted by an epidemic. It has recommenced and is in session at the time of writing this report. When last visited, we found good order and good recitations, particularly by the classes in algebra and arithmetic.

Miss Thomas truly says in her remarks, "So much attention has been given to mathematics that other branches have been neglected, especially geography and grammar. As a general thing the scholars have been respectful and considerate towards their teacher, particularly the older ones." Number of visitors, summer and winter, to present time, 43.

DISTRICT NO. III.

This district had no summer school.

The winter term was under the direction of Mr. Nehemiah H. Gage. Mr. G., though young and inexperienced as a teacher, gave good satisfaction to the district, and acquitted himself with honor.

A teacher must be possessed of exceedingly buoyant spirits to make it deeply interesting to himself and create a high degree of enthusiasm on the part of the pupils, in a school numbering so few. At best, there can be but little variety, little emulation, and scarcely life and motion enough to keep off the dyspepsia and the blues. The term has not yet closed, but at the last visit of the committee the scholars were evidently making commendable progress. Number of visitors to the present time, 3.

DISTRICT NO. IV.

Summer term—Miss Ellen Gowing, Teacher. Miss G. evidently took much interest in the welfare of the pupils under her charge, and as a result a good degree of improvement was made. As some of the previous terms had not been entirely successful, her labors to establish and maintain salutary discipline were rendered exceedingly arduous, requiring all the patience, skill, energy and perseverance she could command. Perhaps the committee would not have transcended their obligations to the district if two or three of the larger boys had been expelled from the school. As long as parents are disposed, directly or indirectly, to defend and justify their children in offering insolent indignities to their teachers, may we expect to have disorderly schools. The closing examination was creditable to both teacher and scholars. The exercises were generally prompt, especially the younger classes in reading, and those in geography and written arithmetic. But little attention was given to the important branch, writing, as the parents generally neglected to furnish stationery. The presence of a goodly number of the citizens of the district and vicinity contributed much to the interest of the occasion. Number of visitors, 47.

The winter term was taught by Mr. Hiram D. Woods of Nashua. As this district has a sufficient number of scholars to enjoy the advantages of a *graded* school, and as we are confident that no teacher, either in summer or winter, can do justice to each scholar and give general satisfaction, under the present arrangement, we hope the district will soon become unanimously convinced of the practicability and necessity of dividing the school. We think the expense of remodeling the present house so as to render it convenient for such division need not exceed the sum of \$150.

"A word to the wise is sufficient." Mr. Woods is an experienced and energetic teacher; communicative, firm, and decided. Yet we think his reputation as a disciplinarian, and usefulness as a teacher, would not be sensibly diminished by a somewhat increased exhibition of the winning influence of love, gentleness, &c. Possessing the faculty of despatching business with facility, he succeeded in establishing as good order, and eliciting, probably, as much interest as is practicable for any teacher, under the present arrangement of the school. One third of the scholars being absent at the closing examination, the classes were necessarily broken;

still, many of the exercises were of a high order ; particularly the first class in Colburn's, and one in the Common School Arithmetic. The second class in reading likewise gave evidence of having received accurate and thorough training. Three names are reported as being neither absent, tardy or excused, and twenty-three as not being tardy during the term. Writing was wholly disregarded.

Number of visitors, 47.

DISTRICT NO. V.

Both terms of this school were taught by Miss S. Frances Greeley. The eminent success which attended the efforts of Miss G. in this school, clearly demonstrates the wisdom of employing the same teacher, summer and winter, whenever practicable. As a result of faithful and arduous labor, she succeeded in generating a commendable degree of interest in the minds of all her pupils.— Practical, logical deductions and a clear conception of principles were required from each scholar, rather than a simple rehearsal of the phraseology of the text-book. The demonstrations upon the black-board by the classes in arithmetic and algebra were quite satisfactory, as they were able to sustain a somewhat critical examination. A more thorough class in geography we have not seen for many years. Sixteen neatly covered writing books were inspected with interest by the visitors, and each page gave evidence of care and improvement. A tendency on the part of some of the larger scholars to defective intonation and indistinct utterance, destroyed the beauty of the reading exercise. We hope this habit will soon be eradicated. With respect to order, this school has not been equaled by any in town. In this connection the committee feel under obligations to say, that much credit is due to the larger gentlemen of this school for their courteous, gentlemanly and well-ordered conduct. Number of visitors, summer and winter, 80.

DISTRICT NO. VI.

The summer and winter terms were under the instruction of Miss Hattie Richardson of Lyndeborough. A large experience in the art of teaching, has rendered Miss R. familiar with its duties and responsibilities, and we were pleased to notice a good degree of willingness to faithfully discharge them. More rigid accuracy in the observance of good order, would have rendered each term eminently successful and satisfactory to the committee, and apparently to a large majority of the citizens of the district. In many respects this school is not surpassed by any in town. We found the larger scholars interested in arithmetic and algebra as usual, and also in grammar, composition and other practical branches.— The interest manifested here in the study of grammar is certainly commendable and worthy of imitation by other schools. It was with regret that we noticed the absence of a few of the scholars at the closing examination, as nothing *but sickness* can render such

absence vindicable. It would not be too much to say that the classes in each branch had made praiseworthy improvement, and in no one was there a shadow of failure. Several declamations added to the interest of the occasion. No. of visitors, summer and winter, 43.

DISTRICT NO. VII.

Summer term—Miss Louisa A. Haselton, Teacher. The able manner in which this term of school was conducted, proves conclusively that Miss H. possesses very many of those qualities of mind which are calculated to beget an interest and love for study on the part of her pupils, and consequently to ensure success. One young man would probably have been excluded, if the natural clemency and forbearance of the teacher had not restrained her from making seasonable application to the committee. The final examination disclosed the fact that thoroughness had been the motto, rather than a skimming of the surface. We noticed that several of the larger scholars had occupied most of the term in reviewing what they had previously gone over, and it is not improbable if more of our teachers should adopt a similar plan, we should have more *good* scholars than we now have. The recitations were generally prompt and interesting, particularly the classes in geography and spelling. Number of visitors, 42.

The winter term was taught by Mr. Abel Fletcher of Litchfield. Unfortunately for the district as well as the teacher, Mr. F. commenced this school possessing the prejudice of a few of the parents and larger boys, which served to lessen his influence and usefulness. Nevertheless, the appearance of the school at the opening of the term was tolerably satisfactory. We found the teacher apparently laboring with much earnestness to impart sound and practical knowledge, and the scholars seemingly disposed to appreciate his instructions. It can hardly be expected however, that a teacher aged and infirm as Mr. F., would be able to infuse into the minds of the young that degree of sprightly vigor and active interest, as one who has fully kept up with the improvements of the age in the *manner* and *style* of teaching. At the expiration of seven weeks, the teacher was obliged through illness, to suspend the term for a fortnight, and in consequence of the bad travelling, it was not considered expedient to recommence. Therefore there was no examination. The register of this school was kept in a very correct and proper manner. So many of our registers are returned with defects on every page, that we are disposed to give credit where it is due. It contained some judicious remarks by the teacher, which we should be pleased to copy if space permitted.— Number of visitors, 4.

DISTRICT NO. VIII.

Teacher, Miss Martha Pollard. This school also had one teacher through the summer and winter terms. It will be noticed that several of our Prudential Committees have just and adequate ideas

of the importance of avoiding, as far as may be, a frequent change of teachers. The amount of positive *advancement* achieved in the four schools where no change has been effected in the two terms, compared with the other schools, affords an impressive contrast.—It is not usually an easy task to find really *good* teachers for each particular school ; and when *once found, their services should be secured until the welfare of the school renders a change admissible and necessary.* Miss P. apparently won the confidence of both parents and scholars, and proved herself to be an efficient teacher for this school. A little more mental discipline will enable her to rank high as an instructress. The examination at the close of each term was pleasant and satisfactory, each class exhibiting indubitable evidence of improvement. A good number of neat and cleanly specimens of penmanship were shown. We have no hesitancy in saying that we found more good voices in this school, comparatively, than any other in town. Number of visitors, both terms, 46.

DISTRICT NO. IX.

Summer term—Miss Sarah L. Marsh, Teacher. In this school Miss M. fully sustained her high reputation as a teacher. A large experience, coupled with a natural fondness for teaching, has contributed to the formation of that peculiar *tact*, which makes the school-room at once the theatre of interest and of intellectual and moral improvement. The labors of the day being thoroughly systemised, quiet and good order being established by gentleness and precept, a mutual attachment was formed between teacher and scholar, which rendered the labors of the one comparatively easy, and of the other decidedly pleasant and profitable. The countenances of the large number present at the close, betokened a deep interest and a tacit approval of the life and accuracy which characterised the occasion. The classes in Colburn's Arithmetic and geography acquitted themselves with honor. Much improvement was made by the second class in reading. Several declamations and one or two original dialogues served as a zest and relieved tedium. Number of visitors, 55.

The winter term was taught by Mr. Moses G. Parker of Dracut, Mass. Though inexperienced, Mr. P. labored with usual fidelity. The order and general appearance of the school at each visit of the committee, was passably good. Several of the recitations at the examination were excellent, and all of them gave positive indications of improvement, excepting spelling, which was a decided failure. We hope the time is not far distant when *all* of our teachers will be disposed to give to this branch the amount of attention commensurate with its importance. The writing books would compare favorably with those of any other school in town. Several scholars are reported as not having whispered. Number of visitors, 31.

DISTRICT NO. X.

Summer term—Miss Marietta L. Marsh, Teacher. This school, though small in number, is nevertheless a good one ; and the dis-

trict receiving material aid from citizens in Litchfield, possesses more educational advantages, comparatively, than any other in town. But few districts, moreover, exhibit more harmonious action and a commendable degree of pride in having a good school. This was Miss M.'s second term in the same school, and she apparently won the unqualified approbation of all concerned. The final exercises were as attractive and varied as we could reasonably expect from so small a number. Marked improvement was especially noticed in the reading exercises. Number of visitors, 34.

Winter term—Miss L. Maria Colburn, Teacher. The committee found here nearly everything which contributes to a good school—good order, strong voices, studious habits and prompt recitations. The examination proved conclusively, that much labor had been performed by both teacher and pupils. In general scholarship this school is not surpassed by any of its number, each pupil presenting attainments proportional to the age. Number of visitors, 40.

STATISTICS.

The following table is affixed for the purpose of giving in a condensed form, interesting and important statistical information respecting the several schools.

District No.	Term.	Length of school in wks.	Wages of Teacher pr mo. including board.	No. of Scholars.	Average Attendance.	Instances of tardiness.	No. studying Arithmetic.	Grammar.	Geography.	Writing.	History.	Children between 4 and 14 not attending school.	Months school taught by Teacher prior to this.	No. of sessions Teachers' Inst. attended by teachers.
1	Summer.	11	14.00	27	22	161	18	5	7	11	0	2	3	1
	Winter.	7 4-7	27.50	29	22	75	28	6	8	16	2	6	3 1/2	1
2	Summer.	9	13.00	17	14	57	9	2	9	10	1	2	0	1
	Winter.	11	22.00	28	19	81	21	10	8	11	0	2	2	0
3	Winter.	12	25.00	12	9	67	10	3	5	5	0	1	0	3
4	Summer.	12	18.00	59	46	211	44	10	17	5	3	7	6	2
	Winter.	7	55.00	58	46	138	49	14	17	0	2	*	87	*
5	Summer.	12	16.00	24	21	3	15	2	9	11	1	*	10	4
	Winter.	8	22.00	25	21	36	18	5	16	16	0	*	13	5
6	Summer.	11	16.00	21	16	9	20	11	9	16	3	1	33	5
	Winter.	12	23.00	28	22	4	27	16	11	11	4	5	36	5
7	Summer.	10	16.00	27	24	20	15	2	12	14	0	*	12	0
	Winter.	7 1/2	26.00	31	22	72	20	2	9	17	0	0	*	0
8	Summer.	16	12.00	23	20	40	9	1	5	10	0	6	0	0
	Winter.	8	16.50	24	20	6	14	0	7	15	0	*	4	1
9	Summer.	10	14.89	29	25	2	15	2	11	12	1	2	45	4
	Winter.	11	26.00	31	22	29	21	2	14	15	0	5	0	1
10	Summer.	9	12.00	12	11	6	6	1	3	5	1	4	2	*
	Winter.	12	19.00	16	13	49	15	6	6	8	0	*	6	2

* Not reported.

To the foregoing specific report of the schools in the several districts, we propose to add a few suggestions which may serve to engage the attention of our citizens, and aid in solving the inquiry which naturally suggests itself: How can our schools be improved? To be able to answer this question fully, we ought to ascertain the precise *causes* of the evils we seek to remedy. It is believed they may be generally included under the following heads.

I.—Want of interest on the part of parents and others. II.—Frequent change of teachers. III.—Excessive multiplication of school districts. IV.—A tendency to shun the common and practical for the higher, more abstruse and speculative branches. V.—A want of provident discrimination on the part of Prudential Committees in the selection of teachers. The first in order is doubtless the sorest evil with which we are called to contend. Indifference and neglect on the part of those who ought to feel the most lively concern for the welfare of our schools, cannot fail to chill the zeal of all other persons. Neither teacher nor scholar can be expected to labor with ardor and perseverance, when they find no sympathy where they have the best right to expect it.—This apathy manifests itself in various ways: in the preference which is sometimes given to the poorest teachers, provided only that they are the cheapest; *in permitting children to be irregular in attendance*; in the neglect of parents to visit the school, and omitting such examination of the children at home as will animate them to greater diligence, and at the same time reveal the true degree of their proficiency; in opposing every plan which involves an increase of expense or efficiency, and in encouraging a want of respect towards the teacher. Many persons do not seem to realize that schools may in some cases be useless, in others a positive nuisance. They usually feel that education is desirable and even necessary. They have built a school house, provided it with a teacher, supplied their children with books and enjoined their attendance. They have yet to learn that all this may be without benefit, that morally they may become worse at school, that even their intellectual tastes and habits may degenerate and their prospects in life only be shrouded in deeper gloom.

It is impossible to overate the evils arising from a frequent change of teachers. The business of education is *progressive*. It consists of a series of processes, the later always depending upon the earlier, and requiring therefore, to be conducted within certain limits, on the same principles and by the same methods. But in the present state of our schools, hardly any two teachers have the same methods, and as each is apt to be tenacious of his own, the children will often occupy the whole term in retracing their studies according to a *new method*. There will be *movement* but no *progress*.

Is there any remedy for this evil? We answer, *let each school be taught by a female summer and winter*. The advantages of

this course would be various. It would give us *permanent instructors* ; it would be a *cheap* system, and therefore give us longer schools ; it would secure teachers of higher intellectual capacity and qualifications, and conduce to the improvement of manners and morals.

The common and only plausible objection to this plan, is a belief in the inability of females to properly govern our winter schools.— But does not the experience of the past winter render this objection nugatory ? To say nothing in disparagement of those under the care of males, we hazard the opinion that those taught by females will suffer nothing in comparison, either in respect to order, mental discipline, or aught which contributes to a perfect school. Yet, with the exception of district No. 4, a larger number of large scholars and young men, were in the latter than in the former. Hence we say, give us thorough, practical, experienced females, rather than poor, inexperienced or even ordinary males, who find it convenient to engage in the business occasionally, *for the pay they get*, and which is calculated to simply subserve what in their estimation, is higher and more honorable.

Although a reduction of the present number of school districts would, in our judgment, be very desirable, we suppose the town is not yet prepared to accept its practicability.

The study of arithmetic and the higher mathematics has become almost a mania, greatly to the detriment of many of our schools.— Several of our young people have occupied a large portion of their time the past winter, in solving those wretchedly embarrassing perplexities in Greenleaf's National Arithmetic, which might have been devoted to studies equally disciplinary and much more practical and beneficial. None value a correct knowledge of arithmetic more highly than we do ; but to see pupils pursuing it to the exclusion of others as useful, giving only the fragments of their time to reading and spelling, neglecting history, geography, grammar, composition &c., seems to be an error in our system of education not to be tolerated.

The tendency to glide superficially over elemental principles, grasping the higher branches to the neglect of the primary, giving but little regard to the natural order of studies, interrupts the healthful development of the delicate mental organization of the child, enervates rather than strengthens intellectual power, and should be especially guarded against by every parent and teacher. The prime object of study being mental discipline, it is the business of the teacher to teach his pupils to *think*. The *subject* should be studied rather than the *text book*, and the book used only as an aid in acquiring a knowledge of the subject. It is all wrong to call the mere committing to memory of the pages of a text book, study. Moreover, let the studies be *practical*. Our present system of school training is too often the source of great perplexity to young men

who are entering into active life. They find in their every day business, a multitude of questions which their common school education ought to enable them to solve at once—but, unfortunately, it cannot. They find that they have learned many things which are of very little use to them, and what would be of service, has not been learned at all, or so superficially as to be of no practical utility. This error will not be remedied, until the number of studies is abridged, and the few which remain are more profoundly taught. The mind as well as the stomach has a certain digestive capacity, and each is enfeebled by being overtasked.

In consequence of protracted confinement, unnatural excitement, overtaking, sudden changes of temperature, and the inhalation of a vitiated atmosphere, the foundation of very many of the diseases incident to man in riper years, is laid in the school room. Our children, therefore, should be taught the laws of their physical being with the same care as they are instructed in the other sciences; and every teacher should be an intelligent, practical physiologist, and should be held responsible to a certain extent, for the physical welfare of the child while committed to his care.

We think no person should be selected as a Prudential Committee, who is not known to possess a *deep interest* in the schools, and rise above all mere favoritism in the choice of teachers. "*The heart of the school is the teacher,*" and, usually, *good* teachers are to be *sought out*; not *waited for*; neither can they be "hired for a song." We would have each Prudential Committee *look at a teacher*, two or three times, and *at the condition and character of the school to be taught*, two or three times, before employing a person to teach. Would not the town or districts find it a profitable investment, to spend a few dollars for suitable chairs or a settee, to be placed in each school room for the accommodation of visitors?—Would not a good clock, costing \$2,00, tend to induce punctuality on the part of teacher and scholar? Would not \$5,00 for a small globe, without which no child can gain a correct idea of the relative position of different countries, or have any clear conception of the terms used in mathematical geography, be wisely expended?—Would not a map of New England, or New Hampshire, facilitate the study of geography? No teacher can do his work acceptably without the requisite means for illustration, any more than a mechanic can do his without tools. In concluding our report, we cannot but congratulate our citizens upon the general success of our schools the past year; yet, there is room for improvement.

ADDISON HEALD.
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